United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns seizure of Agdam and other recently occupied areas in Azerbaijan; demands immediate end to fighting and complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces.

+ Secretary-General again deplores Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon; calls for immediate cease-fire and end to policy of forcible displacement of civilian population; UNRWA says attacks have had disastrous consequences for Palestinian refugees.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat leaders, at peace talks in Geneva, order immediate cease-fire; military commanders to meet daily to resolve possible disputes.

+ Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to United Nations says his Government is being pressured by Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference to accept partition.

+ Chairman of the Security Council Committee dealing with sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia announces rules and regulations for vessels delivering humanitarian supplies to its ports.

+ President Aristide, in letter to Special Envoy Dante Caputo, asks for technical and financial assistance for Haiti, in accordance with the Governors Island Agreement.

+ Economic and Social Council recommends that General Assembly proclaim third decade to combat racism, adopt declaration on eliminating violence against women, and meet to launch 1994 Year of the Family.

+ Japan contributes $4 million to support interim administration in Cambodia.

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The Security Council today condemned the seizure of the district of Agdam and of all other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan, and demanded an

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immediate end to all hostilities and the complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from those areas. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 853 (1993).

The Council called on the parties concerned to reach durable cease-fire arrangements, and expressed grave concern at the disruptive effect of the escalation of hostilities on the efforts of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Council urged the parties to refrain from any action that would obstruct such a solution, and to pursue negotiations within the Minsk Group, as well as directly.

The Council urged the Government of Armenia to continue to exert its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan with relevant resolutions, and acceptance of the Minsk Group's proposals. The Council also urged States not to supply arms which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of territory.

The Council asked the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian aid to the affected civilian population and to help displaced persons to return home, and called once again for unimpeded access for humanitarian relief efforts in the region. The Council also asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE and the Chairman of the Minsk Group, to continue to report to it on the situation.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed grave concern at the continuing deterioration of the situation in southern Lebanon, which had caused the destruction of homes and villages and led to the exodus of hundreds of thousands of residents from the area. For the second time in two days, he deplored the Israeli attacks, noting that they had continued despite previous appeals for restraint.

The Secretary-General called for an immediate cease-fire and for the cessation of all fighting. The policy of deliberately forcing people to abandon their homes must be stopped forthwith and those who had been displaced should be allowed to return in peace and safety, he said.

In a related development, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Türkmen, today said the Israeli attacks were having disastrous consequences for Palestinian refugees living in southern Lebanon. Ten refugees had been killed since 25 July, while thousands had fled their shelters, according to UNRWA.

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President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban today ordered their military commanders to immediately implement a cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. The orders were issued in the course of a meeting of heads of delegations at the peace talks in Geneva. The talks, which began on Tuesday, are being chaired by Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

In order to reinforce the cease-fire order, it was decided that the commanders of the three military forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina should meet in Sarajevo today under the auspices of the United Nations, the spokesman said. The commanders would also meet each day while the peace talks continued in order to discuss the causes of any conflict and to correct the situation. They would also discuss what modifications were needed to the Military Agreement contained in the Vance/Owen Plan.

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The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being pressured by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to accept partitioning of the country, Bosnia and Herzegovina's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, told correspondents in New York today. He alleged that the Co-Chairmen had forsaken the principles of the London Conference which were to have been the cornerstones of a just and durable peace, and which had been espoused by the Security Council, the United Nations Charter and the European Community.

Mr. Sacirbey said "abnormal delays" in deploying ground and air forces in support of the United Nations mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina only served the interest of the aggressor forces, so that the current peace talks in Geneva were being conducted in "an environment of genocide".

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The rules and regulations for potential shippers wishing to use any maritime ports within the territorial sea of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) were announced today by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee concerning sanctions against the Federal Republic, Ronaldo Mota Sardenburg. According to the statement issued today, the rules are intended to ensure the unimpeded delivery of shipments to that country of medical or food supplies, or other items of essential humanitarian need approved by the Committee, while complying with the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the Committee's Revised Consolidated Guidelines for granting exceptions to commercial vessels entering the proscribed area.

The rules include the requirement that any State or international humanitarian agency involved in such a delivery provide the Committee with justification for exceptional authorization; provide particulars of all cargo

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on the vessel entering the territorial sea of the Federal Republic, whether destined for that country or not; and that they inform the Committee of the proposed inspection and monitoring regimes entailed in entering that area.

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Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), has received a letter from President Jean-Bertrand Aristide requesting technical and financial assistance for Haiti. In a statement issued yesterday, Mr. Caputo said the President had also sought assistance for the administrative reform of the judiciary system, for modernization of the armed forces and for the creation of a new police force. Those requests were made in accordance with the Governors Island Agreement of 3 July.

Mr. Caputo went on to say that such assistance would be provided following the plans outlined by the Constitutional Government of Haiti in consultations with the United Nations and the OAS Secretaries-General, with the help of the international community and individual donor nations.

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The Economic and Social Council has recommended that the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, proclaim a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, adopt a declaration on the elimination of violence against women, and devote a plenary meeting to launching the 1994 International Year of the Family. Those recommendations were contained in the more than 50 texts adopted by the Council in Geneva on Tuesday.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to develop comprehensive policy measures for preventing sexual harassment in the Secretariat, prepare a world ministerial conference on organized transnational crime in 1994 and continue refining the draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000. The Secretary-General was also urged to promote equal opportunities for disabled persons in the United Nations system. In the only action taken by a vote, the Council reaffirmed that for Palestinian women, equality and self-reliance could only be achieved through the ending of Israeli occupation and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights.

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Japan has announced a contribution of $4 million in support of the interim administration in Cambodia, according to a United Nations spokesman, who said that such contributions were for a "very essential purpose". The administration, which comprises all Cambodian political parties, will be replaced by a new Government in late August or early September.

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